

SHANE CAMPBELL GALLERY

For Immediate Release:

Shane Campbell Gallery is pleased to announce the solo exhibition *Loose Is Vision* by Alex Olson at the gallery's South Loop location. The exhibition will open on Saturday, November 21 from 1-3 pm and will continue on view until January 9, 2016.

This show continues the artist's focus on an expanded idea of sight, beginning with the idea of looking through another's eyes. Specifically, it channels the perspectives of eight Lucys and imagines how they would view the world. Why Lucy? In researching concepts around sight, significant Lucys kept appearing as visionaries: the Saint, the Hominid, the Psychedelic. Perhaps something could be learned from imagining their vantages:

Saint Lucy, patron saint of the eye, was blinded but regained her sight. She might be particularly attuned to light as it pertains to physical and metaphysical vision.

Lucy the Hominid, a fossil skeleton of a hominid, marked the evolutionary transition from walking on all fours to upright. She might marvel at her shift of vision from horizontal to vertical and be on the way towards thinking in signs.

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds would be able to see multiple realities at once.

The variable white dwarf star BPM 37093, aka *Lucy*, is considered to be crystallized, like a diamond, and consequently takes its nickname after the song. It pulses light, in a sense constantly turning the lights on and off on itself. I wonder how it would learn to trust that everything remains present even when it can't see?

Lucille Ball, star of *I Love Lucy*, would be a keen observer of exaggerated gestures.

Lucy Parsons was a perceptive labor rights activist and anarchist in Chicago in the early 1900s. She would be vigilant about time versus labor.

Lucy is also the name of my cousin's daughter. As a baby, she would be learning to recognize the edges of things, where one ends and another begins, as well as how to categorize.

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Lucy Rie was a British potter. She might notice how things could act as vessels. What would a painting as vessel be?

The goal of these works is not to create a portrait of each specific Lucy, or to illustrate their narrative, but instead to imagine how a significant element of their experience might tint what they see. The resulting paintings concentrate on this imagined element as a lens for their creation.

Interspersed with these works are three small paintings made in collaboration with chance, each titled *Filter*. By incorporating blind choices of paint and brushes, these works seek to shift preconceived ideas of composition and look towards the unexpected. They offer more intimate moments of reflection amid the other viewpoints: an interior expansion of vision in relation to the outward reach of sight.

Alex Olson lives and works in Los Angeles. She received a BA from Harvard University in 2001 and an MFA from CalArts in 2008. Her work has been featured in exhibitions including, "Variations: Conversations in and Around Abstract Painting", curated by Nancy Meyer and Franklin Sirmans, LACMA, Los Angeles; "The Stand In (Or a Glass of Milk)", curated by Alexandra Gaty and Lauren Mackler, Public Fiction, Los Angeles; "Murmurs: Recent Contemporary Acquisitions", curated by Rita Gonzalez, LACMA, Los Angeles; "Painter, Painter", curated by Eric Crosby and Bartholomew Ryan, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (all 2013) and "Made in LA", Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2012).

For further information please contact Eric Ruschman at 312-226-2223 or at eric@shanecampbellgallery.com.

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